

REMARKS

Claims 27-56 are pending. The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement regarding the claims of the above-identified application. The Examiner has required that the Applicant elect one of the following groups of claims:

Group I. Claims 27-30, 32 and 56, drawn to a method of processing ores;

Group II. Claims 29-30, 33-34, 38-39 and 44-49, drawn to a pretreatment of ores; or

Group III. Claims 31 and 50-55, drawn to a mining apparatus.

Applicant notes that claims 35-37 and 40-43 were not included in any of the groups identified by the Examiner.

Applicant elects Group I, directed to claims 27-30, 32, 35-37, and 56 without traverse but reserves the right to prosecute the nonelected claims in another application.

Additionally, Applicant elects Species B, high electric field strength microwaves for prosecution.

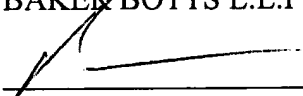
Applicant identifies that claims 27, 28, 32, 35-37, and 56 are readable on Species B.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that no fee is due in connection with the submission of this paper. However, if any additional fee is due, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

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